

Message Text

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56

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3891

TREASURY DEPT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1546

TREASURY FOR SECRETARY SIMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SA, US, EG, EFIN

SUBJECT: SAUDI AID TO EGYPT

1. DURING SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA FEB 28-MARCH 1, HE WAS TOLD BY MINISTER OF FINANCE ABA KHAIL THAT SAG HAD EXTENDED \$300 MILLION TO EGYPT IN GRANT AID DURING PRESIDENT SADAT'S RECENT VISIT, AND THAT UAE HAD EXTENDED ANOTHER \$150 MILLION. ABA KHAIL FURTHER SAID SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GULF STATES WOULD BE FORMING SOME SORT OF PENINSULAR REGIONAL ASSOCIATION THAT WOULD BE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSIDERING EGYPT'S ASSISTANCE NEEDS. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THAT KUWAIT, QATAR, AND UAE WOULD BE AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT THIS GROUPING COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A MEANS OF HANDLING AID MATTERS

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FOR OTHER STATES AS WELL.

2. ABA KHAIL POINTED TO THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO HELP EGYPT ALSO. MINISTER OF COMMERCE SOLAIM SAID EGYPT WASN'T LIKE ANGOLA. EGYPT WAS A BIG, STRONG COUNTRY, AND DESERVED AND NEEDED U.S. HELP. HE ASKED SECRETARY SIMON IF THE SECRETARY RECALLED HIS MEETING WITH THE LATE KING FAISAL WHERE THE SAUDIS HAD BEEN URGED THEY SHOULD DO AS MUCH AS THEY COULD FOR EGYPT. (LATER SOLAIM ALSO SAID THAT IF AID TO EGYPT WERE NOT CAREFULLY PLANNED AND MONITORED, THEY MIGHT AS WELL POUR AID DOWN A DRAIN.) SECRETARY SIMON SAID U.S. AID TO EGYPT EXCEEDED ONE BILLION DOLLARS, AND THAT HE WOULD BE GETTING TOGETHER WITH THE EUROPEANS NEXT WEEK AND WOULD PRESS ON THEM ALSO THE NEED TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH REGARD TO EGYPT'S AID REQUIREMENTS.
HORAN

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